

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL SOCIETY.

THE fifth annual meeting was held at Wyatt's Room, High-street, June 17, the Rev. the Rector of Exeter College in the chair.

After a few preliminary observations, the chairman read the annual report of the committee. He congratulated the society on the steady progress of the "Study of Gothic Architecture," which is daily becoming more general: the good effects of this are already visible on all sides, and still greater effects may yet be looked for. He rejoiced to observe the formation and successful progress of similar societies in various parts of the kingdom, and mentioned particularly the Cambridge and the Exeter Societies as very flourishing and efficient. The rautilation and destruction of the remains of Gothic architecture has been checked and well-nigh stopped, although a few more instances may still be heard of occasionally, as at Newcastle, where an ancient church has been wantonly destroyed within the last few weeks; the general indignation with which such acts are now viewed, by all persons who have any pretension to the rank of educated or enlightened men, is a guarantee that they will not be frequent. There is, however, another just ground of alarm in the mischief which is daily perpetrated under the name of restoration, which, when conducted without sufficient knowledge, is often productive of more injury than benefit, and should be very closely watched. Irreparable injury is often done by ignorant persons, under the plausible pretext of merely scraping off the whitewash, and still more when the decayed surface of the stone has also to be scraped.

In this university and city, there have been four instances of restoration within the past year, which are deserving of praise. At St. John's College the chapel has been restored in a very elaborate manner, and with good taste. At Merton, the roof of the ante-chapel, which was in a decayed state, has been renewed, and the floor for the ringers in the tower removed, throwing open a fine groined wooden ceiling, which is a great improvement; but the gallery for the ringers, which has been introduced in the place of the old floor, would have been better omitted. In St. Aldgate's Church the general effect of the exterior is pleasing, but there might have been more accuracy in the details; and we cannot but regret the loss of the old library. At Holywell, though the exterior is less striking; all the detail is admirable, and in the interior the good effect of open seats is fairly seen, and the manner in which this restoration and enlargement have been executed is worthy not only of praise, but of imitation. The restoration of St. Peter's in the East is now also in progress, and it is hoped that the most scrupulous care will be taken to preserve entire the character of the building, even in its most minute details, and that no attempts at improvement will be allowed to interfere with the designs of the original architects of this interesting and valuable relic of antiquity.

The publications of the society during the year have been: the second part of the "Guide to the Architectural Antiquities in the neighbourhood of Oxford," of which a third part is now in preparation; several sheets of working drawings of ancient pews and pulpits, which are found very generally useful, and are readily purchased. Two new sheets were laid on the table, containing the details of the pulpits of Beaulieu, Hants, of stone, very early, in the Decorated style. St. Giles's, Oxford, of wood, also in the Decorated style, but late; and Coombe, Oxfordshire, of stone, in the Perpendicular style. The drawings of Shottesbroke Church, a well-known and very perfect specimen of the Decorated style, have been engraved, and will be ready for publication in a few days; for these drawings the society is

indebted to W. Butterfield, Esq. The drawings of Minster Lovell Church, a good specimen of the Perpendicular style, promised at the two last annual meetings, are still not ready, the architect who undertook to furnish them having failed to fulfil his engagement. The drawings of Wilcote Church, presented by O. Buckler, Esq., were laid on the table, and will be engraved immediately; this is a small church in the Decorated style. Also those of St. Bartholomew's Chapel, presented by C. Cranston, Esq.; this is a small but elegant building of the period of transition from Decorated to Perpendicular.

New editions are preparing of Stanton Harcourt and Hazeley: to the series in 8vo. It is proposed to add the papers on Ewelme and Dorchester, lately read by Mr. Addington, for which the drawings are ready.

At the suggestion of the Bishop of Newfoundland, designs for churches to be constructed entirely of wood, the only material to be obtained in that colony, have been prepared by Mr. Cranston, under the directions of the committee. Two of these designs are now ready, and were laid on the table.

At the request of the Madras committee for the erection of a church at Colabah, a design has been prepared by Mr. Derick, under the direction of the committee, which it is hoped will be found well suited to the climate, while it preserves a strictly Gothic and church-like character. An elevation of this design has been engraved, and copies sent for distribution to any of our members who are interested in it.

The society has in several instances given useful advice to persons engaged in church-building or restoration, and have pleasure in doing so in any case in which they may be applied to.

A paper was read on Dorchester Church, Oxfordshire, by Henry Addington, Esq., of Lincoln College, illustrated by a large number of drawings of all parts of the building, including the original drawings by Mackenzie, for "Skelton's Oxfordshire," which were kindly lent for the occasion by the Rev. H. Wellesley. Mr. A. gave an outline of the early history of Dorchester, with its bishopric and abbey, shewing clearly that there was a Saxon church on this site, but considers no part of the existing building earlier than the middle of the twelfth century (unless it is a small portion of the masonry of the tower), and the greater part is of the time of Edward I. The two semi-circular arches, which have been sometimes considered as Saxon, are evidently cut through the Norman walls, and are probably of the time of Charles II., when the church was repaired after the injury it had sustained in the civil wars. As this interesting paper is to be published, it is not necessary to attempt any further analysis of it.

A memorial was presented to the meeting, very numerously signed by members of the society, suggesting that some of the rules should be more strictly acted upon, and that others should be altered. A special committee of nine members was appointed to consider this subject, and to recommend such alterations as appeared to them to be necessary, and to report thereon to a general meeting of the society, on October 30th.

METROPOLIS IMPROVEMENTS.

THE new line of street from Coventry-street to Long-acre is now in a very forward state, and so soon as the opening from Coventry-street into Leicester-square shall be sufficiently advanced to be seen by the public (which may be expected in a very few days, as the buildings are now in the hands of Messrs. Reddin and Sons, the large contractors under the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods and Forests for pulling down the old houses), the ground will be advertised to be let by public tender, immediately after which the new buildings will be commenced. Arrangements have been concluded with the parish authorities for the footway and carriage paving, both of which will be immediately commenced. The street will be 54 feet wide in clear of the houses, which will be of a handsome character, and may probably be expected to be completed in the course of about eighteen months. The

line of street from Oxford-street into Holborn is now rapidly advancing, the well-known rookery in St. Giles's having nearly disappeared, and the houses required for this improvement being all down, with a very few exceptions; these also are in the hands of Messrs. Reddin, and will be very shortly cleared. Contracts for the sewers and vaults have been entered into with Messrs. Bennett, and Messrs. Hayward and Mixon, respectively, and are already commenced. Ground for a French Protestant church has been sold and staked out, for which a design has been made by Mr. Ambrose Paynter, the secretary to the Royal Institute of British Architects, and will be commenced immediately. The design only awaits the approval of the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods and Forests. It is also intended by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to erect three handsome houses (as a standard for the houses generally, to be built on this line) immediately adjoining the new church; which said houses will be erected from the design and under the superintendence of Mr. J. Pennetborne, the architect to the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods, &c.; under whom also, it may be proper to add, the whole of these very important and extensive alterations and improvements are now being carried into effect. The line from Long-acre to Broad-street will shortly be in a state to be thrown open to the public, it only awaiting the removal of the houses forming the block between Long-acre and Castle-street, which belong to the Mercers' Company, and are to be removed by them. A church is in the course of erection in this line, and from the rapid manner in which the works progress, under the direction of Mr. B. Ferry, promises a speedy completion. The design is of the early English character. The portion of the improvement at the corner of King-street, in continuation of Great St. Andrew's-street, is nearly completed, the buildings being, with only one exception, erected, those built by Mr. Buckingham, the rope-manufacturer, being of a very extensive, handsome, and substantial character. The line from Spitalfields Church to the London Docks is now nearly cleared, and contracts will very shortly be entered into for the formation of the requisite vaults, sewers, &c.; immediately after which the ground will be advertised for tender, as in the other cases. This line is nearly a mile and a quarter long, and is being carried out with a view to ulterior continuation.—Times.

LECTURES ON ARCHITECTURE AND ANTIQUITIES.

Lecture III.

(Continued from p. 327.)

ON GRECIAN ARCHITECTURE—THE IONIC STYLE.

THE second of the Grecian orders of architecture, called Ionic, is considered to be coeval with the Doric, and it is found frequently used in the interior of Doric buildings. "The earliest specimen of which any remains are to be found is the celebrated temple of Juno at Samos; which in the age of Herodotus was considered as the largest and most stupendous edifice ever raised by Grecian art. This interesting ruin, although often visited, has never until recently received any architectural elucidation. It was built about the 60th Olympiad,* by Rhacæus and Theodorus, two natives of the island, and the style, possessing many peculiarities, is such as strongly to denote its archaic origin. The bases of the columns are remarkable from the number and complication of their parts; the shaft is not fluted, nor is there any appearance of volutes to the capitals." (Lord Aberdeen's Inquiry, p. 160.) "The octastyle temple of Bacchus at Teos is a heap of ruins, but enough remains to attest the exquisite beauty of the ancient edifice, and fully to justify the praises lavished by Vitruvius on the architect, Hermogenes of Alabanda." (Ibid. p. 162.) The date of this temple is supposed to be about 440 B.C. It appears from Vitruvius that the architect had prepared his materials to build this temple in the Doric style, but changed his mind to complete it in the Ionic, maintaining that the Doric was not fit for temples. A superb octastyle temple, dedicated to Apollo Didymæus, near Miletus, is supposed to have been built about 376 B.C.; its architects were Peonius of Ephesus, and

* About 540 B.C.